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### The Times' Daily Short Story.

#### INDIAN STRATEGY

(Original.)

More than half a century ago a company of United States cavalry stationed at Fort —, in what is now Arizona, had a pet bear they called Uncas. Uncas was as tractable as a Newfoundland dog, moving freely about the post, usually spending his time either begging the cook for something to eat or sleeping in the sunshine in winter and the shade in summer. One day Uncas strayed away from the post and did not return.

Then came news that the neighboring Indians had left their reservations, and Uncas was forgotten in the prevailing excitement. In those days many of the forts in the wild west were little better than blockhouses, and Fort — was one of this kind. As soon as the Indians were known to have broken loose, the gates were kept closed and the usual precautions in time of hostilities were observed.

One day an order came for the command to march against the Indians. The garrison, including the families of the officers, was left in charge of a sergeant and eight men. Sergeant Winter was one of those better born and educated young men who in those days rarely entered the ranks of the army. As soon as the command left he shut the gates of the fort and directed them to be kept shut.

The second night after their departure a sentinel was shot. No one heard a report, but this was not considered remarkable, for but one sentry was on post and he could not see for a great distance, first, because all the trees near by had been felled and, second, because the moon was approaching the full in a clear sky.

Sergeant Winter kept the soldier's death from the women, for it indicated that Indians were planning an attack, and he did not wish to create an alarm. The next night he watched with the sentry, who was relieved every two hours. Winter toward morning went into quarters for a few minutes to get a cup of coffee, and when he returned the sentry was lying on his back with a bullet in his brain.

Winter resolved to sit up and watch the next night himself. He slept several hours during the day, directing the men to make a sentry of straw and cloth in uniform. At 10 o'clock, while the moon was obscured by a cloud, the dummy sentinel was set up. Then the sergeant posted a real sentinel in concealment, and after arranging a signal for his admission he crawled out some distance from the fort and took position behind a stump. He chose a point before the gate because there was evidence that the sentries had been shot from that direction.

Winter waited till after midnight without experiencing anything unusual. Then he saw something approaching. When it came near enough for

him to see it plainly, he discovered that it was a bear. It was waddling along, occasionally pausing to nibble, but gradually working nearer. The bear passed within a hundred feet of the sergeant, who then recognized the garrison's pet, Uncas. He watched it silently, not daring to make a sound for fear of a hidden enemy, and saw it draw closer to the fort than he was himself.

Winter made up his mind that the wily Indians had sent Uncas in, expecting the garrison to open the gates for him and they would be ready to make a rush at the same time. Doubtless at that very moment they were lying in concealment near by. Worst of all, he feared that those in the fort, seeing their old friend Uncas coming, would not deny him entrance. What should he do?

While he was deliberating Uncas sat up on his hind legs, bear fashion, and the sergeant caught sight of a black line about a yard long extending from the bear's nose toward the fort. Suddenly a bit of flame shot out from the farther end of the black line, and a moment later came a crack. The dummy sentinel on the fort toppled over.

Winter changed his surmises. The Indians had doubtless killed Uncas and were using his skin for a cover under which to pick off the garrison one by one till all were killed. Cautiously the sergeant stole forward toward the disguised savage, the latter meanwhile waddling on toward the fort. Then Winter espied off to his left, but nearer the fort than he, an Indian crawl up from behind the bank of a creek. Then came another and another till Winter counted twenty savages.

It now flashed through the sergeant's brain that the Indians had killed the sentinel this time with a view to surprising the garrison before they were aware that the only man on guard was dead. Winter's blood ran cold. The garrison would be murdered while he, their commander, was outside and unable to help them. There was but one hope. By firing on the Indians they might think there was a force without on which they had not counted, but in doing so he would give away his presence and would probably be taken and tortured to death.

Winter resolved to take his chances on the first of these two suppositions. Raising his rifle, he took a sure aim, with a rest on the stump, and fired at the pretended bear. It sprang up with a yell and fell in a heap. Winter waited, expecting to hear from the Indians, but, whether they did not catch the direction from which his shot was fired or supposed that it came from the fort or whether they feared a concealed force without, no sign of an Indian was seen again. At daylight Winter got up and walked to the fort. On his way he found a dead Indian in Uncas' skin.

Before sunset the command returned, and before three months had passed Winter was a commissioned officer.

MARK C. BENTLEY.

#### GUANTANAMO OURS.

Admiral Barker Takes Possession of Naval Station in Cuba.

Guantanamo, Cuba, Dec. 11.—Four hundred United States marines and 300 bluejackets were landed here and participated in the simple proceedings marking the formal occupancy of this place as a United States naval station and the installing of the station ship. The Cuban and American flags were saluted with twenty-one guns.

Rear Admiral Barker, commanding the battleship squadron of the north Atlantic fleet, was the official representative of the United States. The ships taking part in the ceremonies were the Kearsarge, Alabama, Illinois, Massachusetts, Prairie, Scorpion and Vixen.

The Vixen will remain at Guantanamo as the station ship, and her commander, Lieutenant Commander W. H. Allen, will be the first commandant of the newly acquired station.

#### New York State Politics.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 11.—Governor Odell intimated very strongly that he had never asked Senator N. E. Elsborg to become president of the New York county Republican committee. It was also learned on authority just as excellent that it is very unlikely that Alexander Mason will be made chairman with every Republican interest in New York, and there is little doubt that a chairman capable of harmonizing all interests and of strengthening the party in New York will be selected.

## FIGHT FOR OPEN SHOP

Building Trades Employers Meet to Form National Association.

### GREAT CONTEST IMPENDING.

Organized Capital Prepares to Oppose Organized Labor and an Epoch Making War May Result.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Representatives of every branch of the building industry in the United States have assembled in this city for the purpose of forming a national association of building trades employers, a movement which many believe to be the beginning of the greatest contest between capital and labor this century has ever seen.

The new body will represent hundreds of millions of capital and will test its strength with 4,000,000 members of trades unions. It will be organized against organization and may result in declaring the open shop policy in every city in the country.

The idea of the National Association of Employers had its inception in the formation of the Building Trades Employers' association in New York last spring. Nothing of the kind on so large a scale had ever been achieved in any city in this country, and all cities which had been disturbed by labor conflicts watched the outcome. When the arbitration plan was announced and it was demonstrated that it had proved successful employers in other cities made a closer study of the New York movement, with the result that many similar associations of employers have sprung up in various parts of the country.

Much of this work has been done very quietly. Officers of the New York association have visited other cities to assist in the work, and many delegates have journeyed to New York to study the work of the association there. Copies of the bylaws of the New York association have been sent to cities all over the world.

The delegates to the convention from New York are Benjamin J. Traill of the Employers' Tile, Grate and Mantel association and James K. Strong of the Electrical Contractors' association. Many other members of the New York Employers' association are here.

#### Fight For "Open Shop."

What is of greater importance than the mere fact of forming a national organization is the advance notice given that a movement is to be fostered for the "open shop," the privilege on the part of the employer to hire union or nonunion men, as he sees fit. In the call sent out for the convention some of the objects of the organization were given. Here are two of them:

"All workmen are at liberty to work for whomever they see fit. All employers are at liberty to employ and discharge whomever they see fit."

That is a declaration for the open shop as plainly as it can be expressed, and union men have always contended that a successful movement to establish the open shop meant the end of organized labor. For this reason it is predicted that the new association will arouse the antagonism of the unions from the very outset if the open shop is made one of its objects.

Apprehending that a movement of this character was approaching, the national convention of the American Federation of Labor, recently held in Boston, gave extended attention to the open shop issue and formulated a report strongly opposing it. Three-fourths of the 4,000,000 union men in the United States belong to the American Federation of Labor, and their opposition will be a factor to be reckoned with if a determined effort for an open shop movement is made.

But in the face of the opposition of organized labor it is a question that has been very seriously discussed by employers all over the United States.

Prominent delegates to the convention say that the formation of the national association probably will not mean a decrease in wages. They declare that the purpose of the amalgamation of employers is for the protection of their own interests and not to injure organized labor.

"No matter what the declarations of the unions may be," said Charles L. Eiditz, "the successful employer in the building business does not want to cheapen labor. In this country it is not profitable. But conditions have reached that point in this country where employers must protect their interests. By rapid degrees organized labor has become aggressive, and it is its right to the aggressive, but it has gone beyond that and has become tyrannical to the extent of crushing us and itself as well. Larger organization seems to be our only safeguard now. One of the fundamental principles of our local organization is recognition of the unions, and we shall stand by that as long as the unions act in good faith with us."

"Employers everywhere have learned much from the unions. They have taught the advantages of organization, and they have also demonstrated how much may be accomplished through legislation. The unions are constantly going to state legislatures for laws which prove burdensome to employers, and it is possible that a national organization of employers could get on the statute books a great many laws that would be beneficial both to themselves and the unions."

Many bills have been drafted for discussion at the convention. These bills seek to establish uniform state laws to prohibit sympathetic strikes and for the better regulation of industrial conditions.

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#### RIOT IN CHICAGO.

Street Car Wrecked and Conductor and Motorman Badly Hurt.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—In a riot growing out of the recent strike on the Chicago City Street railway a car was wrecked by a mob of union sympathizers, who furiously attacked the nonunion conductor and motorman, badly injuring both. The crew of the car escaped into a nearby building, where they were guarded by the police. The riot occurred on the Halsted street line near Archer avenue.

The trouble occurred owing to the refusal of passengers, among them several women, to pay fare to the conductor, who wore no union button. When the nickels were refused him he announced that the car would stop unless the money was paid.

At this several of the passengers in the car seized him while others proceeded to the front platform and ordered the motorman to start the car. At first the motorman refused, but when one of the passengers exhibited a revolver concealed in the folds of his overcoat he started the car and did not stop until Archer avenue was reached. Then he leaped from the conveyance and ran, pursued by a crowd of men. The conductor was then attacked. Both of the victims, it is said, were employed as strike breakers during the recent strike.

The riot was participated in by hundreds of men and boys. Forced to flee from the car, the two nonunion men were knocked off their feet and severely pummeled. Struggling up again, the victims fled in different directions, pursued by the crowd. The mob, failing to recapture the fugitives, returned to the car, which had been abandoned at Halsted street and Archer avenue, and wreaked vengeance upon the conveyance, destroying the woodwork and rendering the coach unfit for use. A patrol wagon load of police meantime rescued the two nonunionists.

As a result of the riot street car traffic was suspended for nearly an hour, and hundreds of passengers were delayed.

#### MRS. SOFFEL FREE.

Served Twenty Months For Helping Biddle Boys to Escape.

Pittsburg, Dec. 11.—Mrs. Katherine Soffel, wife of the warden of the Allegheny county jail at the time of the escape of the notorious Biddle brothers from that institution, has been liberated from the Western penitentiary, having served twenty months for the part she played in that sensational affair.

It will be remembered that Mrs. Soffel released the two bandits and then accompanied them in their flight from Pittsburg.

During her incarceration in the penitentiary her husband was granted a divorce.

It is said Mrs. Soffel has rejected two offers to go on the stage and that she proposes to retire to her father's home and live quietly.

#### Noted Korean Assassinated.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 11.—The steamer Empress of India, from Yokohama, brought news from Kobe of the assassination of a notable Korean political refugee, U. Pan Chong, ex-minister of foreign affairs, by two Koreans at Kure on Nov. 24. The victim had been living in Japan since 1897. The assassins, who were later arrested, stabbed the victim during an entertainment he gave them. They are said to have been commissioned in Korea to kill the former minister for the part he is alleged to have taken in the murder of the late queen of Korea. A colliery accident in the Akaike mine, Kiushu, on Nov. 20 killed thirty-five men.

#### Mikado Opens Diet.

Tokyo, Japan, Dec. 11.—The emperor has opened the diet. In referring to the situation with regard to Russia he only said that his ministers are now conducting, with prudence and circumspection, important international negotiations for the preservation of peace in the far east and of Japan's rights and interests.

Spencer's Body Will Be Cremated. London, Dec. 11.—The body of Herbert Spencer, who died Dec. 8, will be cremated on Monday next.

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#### AN UP TO DATE BANDIT.

Had a Fine Scheme, but It Failed to Work.

Rome, Dec. 11.—One of the strangest of crimes has had a most dramatic solution. A young man named Beretta, a millionaire of Milan and a famous sportsman, was invited by the Chevalier Angelo Vecchio, an organizer of sporting shows, to his villa outside of Milan on the pretext that Beretta examine some old pictures. Once there, Beretta was seized and bound and obliged, with a revolver pointing at his head, to make a will leaving his fortune to Vecchio, besides writing a letter saying he had committed suicide.

Vecchio then left the villa after instructing an accomplice to drown Beretta the next day in a bath and carry the body far away from the villa, so as to give Vecchio a chance to prove an alibi. But the heart of Vecchio's accomplice softened, and he set Beretta at liberty, and Vecchio, who read in the newspapers that his plot had been discovered, disappeared. The police thought he had gone to America, but Rome was electrified on hearing that Vecchio had committed suicide by shooting while driving in an open carriage on the famous Monte Pincio drive, rising from the Piazza del Popolo to here.

#### WAR WITH GERMANY?

Major General MacArthur's Startling Prediction.

Honolulu, Dec. 11.—Major General MacArthur, during the military conference, said that in all probability war will take place between the United States and Germany in the near future, which makes the Hawaiian national guard of national importance. The pan-Germanic doctrine is growing among German-Americans, few of whom volunteered in the war with Spain. He believes that German interests are growing to such an extent in South America that the strain upon the Monroe doctrine will eventually result in a conflict.

Hawaii being a strategic point, no nation, he says, will make any attempt upon the short line of the Pacific states until the capture of the Hawaiian Islands has been effected. This statement of Major General MacArthur's has just been made public through the report of Colonel Jones to Governor Carter.

#### Window Glass Makers Meet.

Pittsburg, Dec. 11.—A meeting of the window glass manufacturers interested in the organization of the general selling agency, which is dependent on the agreement being signed by a majority of the pots in the country, is being held here. According to circulars sent out this meeting will decide whether this plan is to be a success or a failure.

#### Lord Stanley of Alderly Dead.

London, Dec. 11.—Lord Stanley of Alderly, who has been seriously ill for some time past and whose death was prematurely announced Tuesday afternoon, has died of pneumonia. He was born in 1827 and was educated at a Roman Catholic, but later he embraced Mohammedanism.

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